

*A Psalm of David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah. O God, thou [art] my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is; (Psalms 63:1)*

Heavy metaphors are employed here. Souls do not thirst, flesh does. Flesh does not long for God, it is at enmity with God. Absence of water has no adverse effect on spiritual life. Water will not satisfy the soul's need.

Yet such is the longing of a deprived saint for *experiences*, exhibitions, sensible evidence of the power and glory of God, for the unspeakable joy and divine comforts only He can give, it can only be described as the thirst of a dying man. The *whole* person, body and soul, is distracted and drawn into this pursuit of God.

In old covenant times these realizations of God were to be had in God's prescribed place, the sanctuary. David had been isolated from that meeting place. Thus he found no pleasant place on earth.

In our new covenant dispensation we also find ourselves distant from God. We shall not find Him, however, in a physical "sanctuary" as superstitious religionists hope. As our Lord answered the Samaritan woman at the well, "Neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem, . . . but in spirit and in truth" (John 4:21-24).

God has not given us such longings to be denied, but to be fulfilled as "with marrow and fatness." He will be found of us who seek Him early, diligently and persistently.

-C.M.